

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 4, 5, and 7 in accordance with the following:

1.     **(Original)**     A composite material comprising  
 (A) 100 parts by weight of at least one organically modified layered silicate produced by treating a layered silicate with an organic onium salt and  
 (B) 50 to 1000 parts by weight of at least one nonionic surfactant.
  
2.     **(Original)**     The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the organic onium salt contains at least one polar group.
  
3.     **(Original)**     The composite material according to claim 2, wherein the polar group is a hydroxyl group.
  
4.     **(Currently Amended)**     The composite material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant is polyoxyethylene alkyl ether represented by the following formula:  

$$C_nH_{2n+1}-(OCH_2-CH_2)_mOH \text{ (n=12 to 18, m=2 to 40)}$$
  
5.     **(Currently Amended)**     A thermoplastic resin composite material comprising at least one composite material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1 and at least one thermoplastic resin.
  
6.     **(Original)**     The thermoplastic resin composite material according to claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an aliphatic polyester.
  
7.     **(Currently Amended)**     A stretched film comprising the thermoplastic resin composite material according to claim ~~5 or 6~~5.